

Serial No.: 09/836,637

PA000007

Remarks

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In view of the above amendments to the claims and the following discussion, the applicants submit that the claims now pending in the application are not anticipated under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 102. Thus, the applicants believe that all of these claims are in allowable form.

OBJECTIONS

A. Claims

The Examiner objects to claim 2 because it incorporates a typographical error. Specifically, the Examiner refers to the term "chat". The applicants have amended claim 2 to replace the term "chat" with the term "that". In view of this amendment to claim 2, the basis for the Examiner's objection thereto has been removed. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's objection to claim 2 be withdrawn.

REJECTIONS

A. 35 U. S. C. § 102

1. Claims 1-5 are not anticipated by Heirich et al.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Heirich et al. (U. S. Patent 5,689,574 issued November 18, 1997). The applicants submit that these claims are not anticipated by this reference.

Claim 1 is directed to a cabinet for an electronic device equipped with loudspeakers (see, specification at page 1, lines 5-6). The cabinet includes a main cabinet 4 for housing electrical and mechanical components of the

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electronic device (see, specification at FIG. 2a and page 2, lines 13-15). The cabinet also includes a loudspeaker cabinet 9 (see, specification at FIG. 2a and page 2, lines 15-16). The loudspeaker cabinet 9 is separate from the main cabinet 4 and is connected to the outside of the main cabinet 4 in a non-detachable manner (see, specification at FIG. 2b and page 2, lines 16-18). However, there is no visible gap between the main cabinet 4 and the loudspeaker cabinet 9 (see, specification at FIG. 2b and page 5, lines 24-25).

Heirich et al. describes an audio unit for a display device (see, Heirich et al. at column 1, lines 13-19). The display unit 18 sits above the audio unit 14 on isolation means 40 such that there is a visible gap between the display unit 18 and the audio unit 14 (see, Heirich et al. at FIG. 13 and column 9, lines 1-34).

Heirich et al. does not describe or suggest an electronic device having a cabinet including a main cabinet for housing electrical and mechanical components of the electronic device, as well as a loudspeaker cabinet that is separate from the main cabinet and is connected to the outside of the main cabinet in a non-detachable manner with no visible gap between the main cabinet and the loudspeaker cabinet. Rather, Heirich et al. describes a completely different arrangement that teaches away from that described in claim 1 where a display unit sits above an audio unit on isolation means such that there is a visible gap between the display unit and the audio unit. Since Heirich et al. does not describe or suggest an electronic device having a cabinet including a main cabinet for housing electrical and mechanical components of the electronic device, as well as a loudspeaker cabinet that is separate from the main cabinet and is connected to the outside of the main cabinet in a non-detachable manner with no visible gap between the main cabinet and the loudspeaker cabinet, claim 1 is patentable over Heirich et al.

Claims 2-5 depend directly, or indirectly, from claim 1. For the same reasons as stated above for claim 1, claims 2-5 are also patentable over Heirich et al.

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2. Claims 1-5 are not anticipated by You et al.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by You et al. (U. S. Patent 5,361,380 issued November 1, 1994). The applicants submit that these claims are not anticipated by this reference.

Claim 1 is directed to a cabinet for an electronic device equipped with loudspeakers (see, specification at page 1, lines 5-6). The cabinet includes a main cabinet 4 for housing electrical and mechanical components of the electronic device (see, specification at FIG. 2a and page 2, lines 13-15). The cabinet also includes a loudspeaker cabinet 9 (see, specification at FIG. 2a and page 2, lines 15-16). The loudspeaker cabinet 9 is separate from the main cabinet 4 and is connected to the outside of the main cabinet 4 in a non-detachable manner (see, specification at FIG. 2b and page 2, lines 16-18). However, there is no visible gap between the main cabinet 4 and the loudspeaker cabinet 9 (see, specification at FIG. 2b and page 5, lines 24-25). Securing means connecting the main cabinet 4 and the loudspeaker cabinet 9 are arranged such that it is not possible for the user to detach the loudspeaker cabinet 9 from the main cabinet 4 (see, specification at page 5, lines 25-30).

You et al. describes a woofer module for a television set (see, You et al. at column 1, lines 6-10). The woofer module 12 sits on top of a television set 34 and is attached to the back panel thereof with user accessible screws 30 such that there is a visible gap 22b between the television set 34 and the woofer module 12 necessary to vent 46 the television set (see, You et al. at FIGS. 2A-2B and column 3, line 52 to column 4, line 49).

You et al. does not describe or suggest an electronic device having a cabinet including a main cabinet for housing electrical and mechanical components of the electronic device, as well as a loudspeaker cabinet that is separate from the main cabinet and is connected to the outside of the main cabinet in a non-detachable manner with no visible gap between the main cabinet and the loudspeaker cabinet and securing means connecting the main

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cabinet and the loudspeaker cabinet arranged such that it is not possible for the user to detach the loudspeaker cabinet from the main cabinet. Rather, You et al. describes a completely different arrangement that teaches away from that described in claim 1 where a woofer module sits on top of a television set and is attached to the back panel thereof with user accessible screws such that there is a visible gap between the television set and the woofer module necessary to vent the television set. Since You et al. does not describe or suggest an electronic device having a cabinet including a main cabinet for housing electrical and mechanical components of the electronic device, as well as a loudspeaker cabinet that is separate from the main cabinet and is connected to the outside of the main cabinet in a non-detachable manner with no visible gap between the main cabinet and the loudspeaker cabinet and securing means connecting the main cabinet and the loudspeaker cabinet arranged such that it is not possible for the user to detach the loudspeaker cabinet from the main cabinet, claim 1 is patentable over You et al.

Claims 2-5 depend directly, or indirectly, from claim 1. For the same reasons as stated above for claim 1, claims 2-5 are also patentable over You et al.

CONCLUSION

Thus, the applicants submit that none of the claims presently in the application are anticipated under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 102. Consequently, the applicants believe that all of the claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Ms. Patricia A. Verlangieri, at (609)

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734-6867, so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,


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